

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-23 are pending in the application. Claims 24-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed, and preserving the right to file a divisional application related to these claims.

**Election/Restriction Requirement**

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, election to of one of the following patentably distinct inventions of the claimed invention was required:

Invention I described by Claims 9-23;

Invention II described by Claims 24-31;

**In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects without traverse Group I for further prosecution on the merits.**

Applicant believes that the currently pending elected claims are allowable in their present form, and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance so indicating. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be beneficial in expediting examination/allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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SNH/dlh

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